

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. A method, comprising:

an acquiring step of acquiring a number indicative of how many picture frames are guaranteed in a predetermined time period, the number being
10 determined according to at least one of a transmission source and a transmission destination of image information;

a counting step of counting a number indicative of how many picture frames of the image
15 information are transmitted to the transmission destination from the transmission source in the predetermined time period; and

20 a transmitting step of culling the image information transmitted from the transmission source according to the number of the guaranteed picture frames and the number of the transmitted picture frames, and transmitting the culled image information to the transmission destination.

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2. The method as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the transmitting step transmits the culled
30 image information if the number of the transmitted picture frames is larger than the number of the guaranteed picture frames, and transmits the image information without culling if the number of the transmitted picture frames is not larger than the
35 number of the guaranteed picture frames.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the image information is encoded for every
frame of the image information.

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4. An apparatus, comprising a unit
configured to acquire a number indicative of how
10 many picture frames are guaranteed in a
predetermined time period, the number being
determined according to at least one of a
transmission source and a transmission destination
15 of image information, to count a number indicative
of how many picture frames of the image information
are transmitted to the transmission destination from
the transmission source in the predetermined time
period, to cull the image information transmitted
from the transmission source according to the number
20 of the guaranteed picture frames and the number of
the transmitted picture frames, and to transmit the
culled image information to the transmission
destination.

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5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4,
wherein said unit transmits the culled image
30 information if the number of the transmitted picture
frames is larger than the number of the guaranteed
picture frames, and transmits the image information
without culling if the number of the transmitted
picture frames is not larger than the number of the
35 guaranteed picture frames.

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6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4,
wherein the image information is encoded for every
frame of the image information.

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7. An apparatus which connects a plurality
of networks, comprising:

- 10 a first unit which receives image
information from a first network;
- a second unit which transmits the image
information to a second network;
- a third unit which stores a number
indicative of how many picture frames are guaranteed
in a predetermined time period, the number being
determined according to at least one of a
transmission source and a transmission destination
of image information;
- 20 a fourth unit which stores a number
indicative of how many picture frames of the image
information are transmitted to the transmission
destination from the transmission source in the
predetermined time period; and
- 25 a fifth unit which counts the number of
the transmitted picture frames of the image
information transmitted from the transmission source
to the transmission destination to store the number
of the transmitted picture frames in the fourth unit,
- 30 and culling the image information transmitted from
the first network according to the number of the
guaranteed picture frames and the number of the
transmitted picture frames to transmit the culled
image information to the second network.

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8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7,
wherein the image information is encoded for every
frame of the image information.